

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Phillip Rice on 5/11/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Regarding claim 1, line 13 has been amended from "gaps and extending directly from, connecting with an in" to --gaps and extending directly from, with no intermediate passageways, connecting with an in--.

Regarding claim 21, line 14 has been amended from "gaps and in alignment to the first gaps, said second gaps extending from and" to –gaps and in alignment to the first gaps, said second gaps extending from, with no intermediate passageways, and--.

Regarding claim 30, line 14 has been amended from "than and aligned with said gaps and extending directly from and connecting with" to – than and aligned with said gaps and extending directly from, with no intermediate passageways, and connecting with--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 13, and 21-30 are allowed.

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3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
4. The primary reason for allowance is that it has not been shown in the prior art to machine grooves into stacked plates to form grooves in the assembled mold for air to be released from a first set of gaps into a second wider set of gaps when the first and second set of gaps extend in the circumferential direction without any intermediate passageways or spaces in-between in any direction. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would not have found it obvious to connect a second set of wider gaps directly to narrow first set of gaps in order to vent the mold without the use of an intermediate passageway to collect the air from the process.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JACOB T. MINSKEY whose telephone number is (571)270-7003. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Daniels can be reached on 571-272-2450. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JTM

/Matthew J. Daniels/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1741